

South/Central Sierra Nevada Noxious Weed Alliance
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
February 14, 2000

Agenda:

1. Memorandum of Understanding
2. Legislation
3. AB1168 Funding
4. Next meeting
5. Brochure/web site
6. WMAs
7. Action Plan
8. Herbicide application

Attendees: Marty Acree, Yosemite National Park; MaryAnn Griggs, California Department of Fish and Game; Carol Hafner, Fresno County Department of Agriculture; Toby Horst, Sierra Resource Conservation District; Katie Horst, Sierra Resource Conservation District; Wain Johnson, University of California, Mariposa; Bob Kerber, California Department of Transportation; Peggy Moore, U.S. Geological Survey, Yosemite Field Station; Tim Prather, University of California, Kearney Agricultural Center

MOU: Final version of Memorandum of Understanding was mailed with signature pages to 15 signatory groups on February 8.

Legislation: Wain Johnson reported at AB737 aimed at providing weed eradication funds failed to be heard by the assembly.

AB1168 Funding: There are draft conditions and guidelines (dated 11/5/99) for distributing funds authorized by Assembly Bill 1168. Carol Hafner distributed copies and will follow up with the state to learn the status of the draft and specifics on funding distribution. (Editor's Note: Carol's 2/15/00 email indicated that the procedures for receiving funding have been changed, but have not been finalized and that distribution information should be out well in advance of the deadline for funding requests for 2000/2001.)

There was a proposal to meet the AB1168 Guidelines requirement of five subcommittees by 1) establishing subcommittees at a full Weed Alliance meeting on March 21 and 2) splitting responsibilities between the Noxious Weed Alliance level and the Weed Management Area level as follows:

- I Funding/Finance/Reporting - shared between NWA and WMA
- II Strategic Planning and MOU - NWA
- III Mapping and Inventory - NWA and WMA
- IV Education/Outreach - NWA
- V Project Coordination (on-the-ground control) WMA

Next meeting: Scheduled for March 21, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for the full Noxious Weed Alliance membership. Steve Schoenig is scheduled to attend to distribute maps for documenting the infestation of yellow star-thistle at a coarse scale.

Brochure/Web site: Tim Prather reminded the group that the Kearney Agricultural Center web site is available on the web at www.uckac.edu/weedbiology and can be used to post Alliance materials like the MOU and the education brochure.

WMAs: Local Weed Management Area meeting minutes should be sent to Alliance members via the email listserver by including them in a message addressed to SIERRAWEEDS@LISTSERV.UCKAC.EDU

Action Plan: We started development of an action plan for 2000 with a simple list of goals for the year. These included:

- Quarterly meetings with the full Noxious Weed Alliance membership
- Monthly meetings of the Steering Committee
- Creation of subcommittees to meet draft AF1168 funding distribution requirements
- Finalize MOU
- Add to Alliance membership a representative from any new Weed Management Areas
- Develop and print weed education brochure
- Solicit specific project proposals from local Weed Management Areas for presentation at March 21 meeting and for solicitation of funds from AB1168. Project proposals for funding should follow format that will be emailed to the membership list at the beginning of March.

More long term goals could include developing curriculum on weeds for middle schools.

Herbicide application: There was discussion about Alliance-sponsored projects using the Resource Conservation Districts to obtain contracts because they are able to contract for spraying with private firms staffed with certified applicators. Steve Schoenig will be contacted to learn if AB1168 funding will be distributed through Agricultural Commissioners.

Direct questions regarding these notes to Peggy Moore at peggy_moore@usgs.gov or 209-379-1888
Please send any updates to email addresses to Tim Prather at prather@uckac.edu